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ST. LOUIS PLATFORM.

Brief, Concise and Clear, Its Strength Becomes More Apparent as the Weeks Pass By.

As the weeks pass by the strength of the platform adopted at St. Louis becomes more and more apparent. Being confined to finance, land and transportation, it is necessarily short and comprehensive. Its position upon these propositions is absolutely impregnable and will stand the test of discussion and the attacks of the opposition. Its brevity, conciseness and clearness is not only a surprise to its enemies, but a growing wonder to its framers, and seems to point directly to an overwhelming influence which may consider as a sure indication of ultimate success. As a political platform it will stand unrivaled during the coming campaign for directness, clean-cut declarations, and an effort to make plain and distinct the principles and demands involved. No one can read it over so carelessly and fail to discover its real aims and purposes. It was written to define and not to deceive. When the platforms of the two old parties are prepared, if the usual methods are followed, it will be with a single purpose to mislead as to real intentions, confuse as to ultimate methods, and to straddle every national proposition of interest to the people. A fair sample of this juggling is seen in the democratic platform lately adopted in the state of New York. No person has as yet been able to interpret its real meaning or give an intelligent synopsis of its aims and purposes. The people have learned to look upon party platforms as examples of partisan cunning and trickery, constructed for the one purpose of obtaining support under false pretense. For this reason the St. Louis platform is a refreshing reminder of those by-gone days when political declarations of this character meant something, when the content of a campaign was fought out on clearly defined lines and the humblest citizen knew the object of his vote. It is but fair to presume that this platform will receive the support of thousands who have been deceived in the past by the concealed purpose, or unfair construction that, as a rule, is applied to a party platform when its provisions are met with the test of application.

Unless the two old parties come square to the front with platforms unequivocal, clear and definite upon the economic questions now before the people, there will be evidences of dissent coming up from all parts of the country. Under the present educational status among the people there is but one method to confirm or defeat the demands of this St. Louis platform, and that is by a legitimate contest based upon facts, good judgment and intelligent research. Such a contest must sooner or later take place, and the common people of the nation will stand as arbiters of its final result. The time has passed when arguments that convince the few leaders will control the balance of the people. Happily for the preservation of the little remnant of liberty and self-government that remains with the people, it is the great body of the common citizenship of the land that are now demanding more light, more education, and a better knowledge upon national questions in order to determine what shall or shall not be the economic legislation of the country. Plainly speaking, the people are wearied of promises unfulfilled, of resolutions made only to be broken, and of legislation that fails in its final construction by the courts. They have taken the matter into their own hands, and know full well their strength and ability to enforce their demands. They have been rudely awakened from their dream of security under the constitution, only to find themselves hedged about with intricate laws and unfair conditions. Their astonishment has given place to a determination that will never be swayed from its purpose until better times and happier conditions again bless the nation. The political bosses may block this stream of progress for a time, but it will simply make the rush of waters more uncontrollable, and the consequent destruction that follows more complete when the obstructions thus made are torn away. The handwriting on the wall foretelling the destruction of boss rule is as visible to-day to those who can read the signs of the times as in the days of scripture, unless they heed the warnings and come at once to the relief of the people. The St. Louis platform states clearly the grievances and demands of the people, and around these demands the distressed and oppressed of the land are certain to rally.—National Economist.

THE HIRING PRESS.

The Republican Party is on the Market to Buy Up the Agricultural and Religious Papers of the West.

The North Dakota Independent publishes the correspondence in full showing how certain papers have sold themselves, body and soul, to the republican campaign committee, having agreed to print thirty anti-alliance articles as editorial for the sum of \$1,000. This recalls the famous Buell circular letters, instructing the bankers to buy up the agricultural and religious newspapers. This gives to us a clew to some unusually brilliant editorials laudatory of President Harrison, which have marked certain religious journals of late. In the columns of the Commercial Union, a regular advertising medium of large circulation, a very important disclosure appears as follows:

A peculiar proposition is now being sent to publishers by a concern calling itself the International Advertising Bureau, but giving no address except post office box 1077, Chicago. The proposition reads as follows:

Publisher:—

Dear Sir: The Anglo-American Trust Co. having placed its entire enormous advertising patronage in our hands for the ensuing year, we desire to place with a few selected newspapers in your state a series of thirty anti-alliance articles, amounting about one thousand inches. We desire to know your very lowest terms per inch for publishing these articles:

1. As original editorial.

2. As general reading matter without any advertising mark.

None of the original editorial matter will be supplied, so there will be no conflict with other papers in your state. These articles have been prepared by able men, and will be a credit

to the columns of your paper. The cash will accompany each order.

The company whose business we have in hand desires to close these contracts so that work may be immediately begun. Your prompt reply will be greatly appreciated.

Address all communications to: 1077, Chicago, Ills. Yours truly,

INTERNATIONAL ADV. BUREAU.

An alliance paper has struck the lead and shows up the scheme in two pages of photograph reproduction of the bargain and contract with the Affolts Basmen, a Norwegian paper published at Hillsboro, N. D. We only give a part of the correspondence.

Here is the evidence. There is no dodging or equivocation that will explain it away. It is conclusive of two things: First, that the plan of the republicans in the northwest is to buy up the temperance and religious journals it is possible for them to get. Second, that there is one newspaper in North Dakota, at least, making professions of great goodness and morality, that has sold itself body and soul to the British-American gold trust, which furnishes the money to push this iniquitous work. How many more papers have been purchased in a similar way cannot be told. That there are others cannot be reasonably questioned. That all of them are bound up by such contracts as was signed by the Basmen is very doubtful. The future alone can reveal the extent to which the press of the northwest has been corrupted by this baleful influence. Meanwhile the people whose labor produces the wealth of the northwest will do well to read carefully and believe sparingly of every article appearing in the press which smacks of the arguments of the gold trust. One editor, at least, has learned the lesson that "you cannot fool all the people all the time." Perhaps others will learn the lesson later. It is to be hoped, for their own interest as well as that of their readers, that they have already learned it.

FARGO, N. D., Feb. 8, 1902.

A. Lindell, Esq., Secretary and Editor Basmen, Hillsboro, N. D.:

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 25th ult. received and its contents carefully noted, but I had not time to answer it before my departure for Aberdeen. Our South Dakota friends were very much pleased to learn of your valuable plan, and will do all in their power to circulate it among the Scandinavian people in our state, as the Elko has very little influence among the population. I fully agree with you as to the plan and time of circulation. The cause is the work done before and in the campaign is the main foundation for the whole campaign, and I am confident that you, on your account, can lay our cause before the people in a very able manner, but nevertheless the South Dakota people ordered me to secure your service in printing as editorials, if possible, thirty anti-alliance articles referred to in my last letter. There will be only one Scandinavian paper besides yours in the whole northwest that will get these articles to print, and as the other one is published in St. Paul, the papers will not be likely to interfere with each other in many places. What I would like to know then is—

1. Your price per inch for publishing our anti-alliance articles as editorials, about 1,500 inches.

2. Your price for 3,000 copies of Basmen from March 1 to July 1—in all seventeen weeks. I don't think we could afford to send out your paper in the busy harvest months of July and August—more perhaps than one issue following the convention.

I must ask you to make your figures as low as possible, taking into consideration your chance of keeping most of them as permanent subscribers, besides the fact that you will be able to secure higher prices for advertising. The reason why I ask this is to close the contract without too extensive correspondence, as we would like to know very soon on what papers we can depend, and also for the fact that the amount allowed for your journal is \$1,000 for advertising and circulating papers.

I will say, though, that if we carry the day in the state convention we will be able to raise another sum for your paper to cover the contract between convention and the election.

I thank you very much for the information regarding "Dakota." I have no use for that paper, then. Since I wrote you last I have visited Jonestown, Brunsvick, Aberdeen, Valley City, Cooperstown, Casselton, Lakota, Lakewood, Wahpeton, and other smaller places, and I find that leading Scandinavian republicans prize your paper very highly. But they say Normanden, of Grand Forks, is hurting our party in many localities, and as you say, it has 6,000 subscribers, it might prove to be a dangerous opponent. How do you think the chances would stand if your circulation was brought up to the same amount, \$1,000, which it will be by our sending out 3,000 extra? Do you think it would be policy to try to win the Normanden, over to our side, and in such case do you think it could be done? Some say it is supported by the democrats. Do you think that is true? How do you think we should proceed in trying to secure the Normanden? Do you know of any good, influential republican in the state who is a friend of the editor and one that we could get to negotiate with him in the matter?

Tonight I shall have to go to Fargo, Pa., where I will stay a couple of days. If you could answer within a day or two, please address letters to Fargo, Pa., or later, address Head-quarters hotel, Fargo.

Hope that you will avail yourself of this opportunity of making something in an honest way, besides booming your worthy paper and promoting the temperance cause. I remain, very truly,

JOHN W. WEST.

There are two Norwegian papers anxious to get the contract for North Dakota—one in St. Paul and the other in Chicago. They are both supposed to be strong papers, but we would rather patronize home trade and use your paper, if we can agree. It must be understood that we cannot use as many as 3,000 papers for four months unless we can have our articles inserted. Hoping to meet you to-morrow night, I remain, yours for true republicanism,

JOHN W. WEST.

CONTRACT. We hereby agree to furnish the republican campaign committees of North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota, 3,000 copies each week of Affolts Basmen, for a period of four months, from March 1, 1902, to July 1, 1902, for a consideration of \$25 cents per copy. And we also agree to publish as editorials or communications, as we may judge it wisest, in said Affolts Basmen, 1,000 inches, more or less, of anti-alliance articles, copy of which is to be furnished by the republican committee, without any extra charge. The payments for the above to be made every month in advance.

(Signed) AFFOLTS BASMEN.

By A. LINDELL.

The Time Past.

The time for quibbling and hair splitting has passed. A man to now command the respect of the farmers of America must say whether he is for the demands or against them. No dodging, gentlemen. If you are for them, how much? The question for every man who advocates the demands to settle with himself is, will he stand by them if the bosses carry his party against them?—National Economist.

—Wealth is the creation of labor.

The mission of government is to protect the creator of wealth in the undisturbed possession of it. There is a little game called financiering, and a little power of government termed class legislation, which have been working in co-operation to secure all the wealth created by labor, while the laborer is kept in poverty and want.—Alliance Herald.

THE LINES ARE DRAWN.

It is the South, West and Northwest Against the Plutocratic East.

A careful analysis of the vote upon the silver bill, and of the absent members, shows some very interesting figures. The full number of the house is 382. Mr. Kendall, of Kentucky, having died leaves 331. Of these, five of the absentees—Campbell (N. Y.), Cheatham (N. C.), Compton (Md.), Donovan (O.) and Springer (Ill.)—have not fixed their position. This leaves 326 members who now stand as below, and absentees accounted for:

For the bill—Democrats, 145; republicans, 11; people's party, 9; total, 165.

Against the bill—Democrats, 84; republicans, 77; total, 161.

It would be a striking coincidence if Mr. Springer's vote should be the one to decide the issue as it was in the choice of speaker. The vote in the house is cast, individually, and as already said was a tie. If each state should be governed by a majority of the votes of its members, and this taken as indicating the choice of the electoral college, it would show a vote of 228 in favor of free coinage to 216 against it. After pairs and absentees are accounted for a fair analysis of the vote by states and parties, to table the silver bill, is given below:

State	AYES	NOES	ABSENT	TOTAL
Alabama	1	2	1	4
Arkansas	1	1	1	3
California	1	1	1	3
Colorado	1	1	1	3
Connecticut	1	1	1	3
Delaware	1	1	1	3
Florida	1	1	1	3
Georgia	1	1	1	3
Idaho	1	1	1	3
Illinois	1	1	1	3
Indiana	1	1	1	3
Iowa	1	1	1	3
Kansas	1	1	1	3
Kentucky	1	1	1	3
Louisiana	1	1	1	3
Maine	1	1	1	3
Maryland	1	1	1	3
Massachusetts	1	1	1	3
Michigan	1	1	1	3
Minnesota	1	1	1	3
Mississippi	1	1	1	3
Montana	1	1	1	3
Nebraska	1	1	1	3
Nevada	1	1	1	3
New Hampshire	1	1	1	3
New Jersey	1	1	1	3
New York	1	1	1	3
North Carolina	1	1	1	3
North Dakota	1	1	1	3
Ohio	1	1	1	3
Oregon	1	1	1	3
Pennsylvania	1	1	1	3
Rhode Island	1	1	1	3
South Carolina	1	1	1	3
South Dakota	1	1	1	3
Tennessee	1	1	1	3
Texas	1	1	1	3
Vermont	1	1	1	3
Virginia	1	1	1	3
Washington	1	1	1	3
West Virginia	1	1	1	3
Wisconsin	1	1	1	3
Wyoming	1	1	1	3
Totals	165	161	5	331

*Not voting—1 in each case.

A careful study of these figures will give a remarkable clear indication of the location and strength of the reform sentiment of the country. If the plutocrats in a straight campaign should advocate protection and the single gold standard they would probably carry California, Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Wisconsin—149 votes. The opposition would have a majority in Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming—235 votes. The doubtful states would be California, Illinois, Ohio and Wisconsin.

The domination of the money power is coming to a crisis. Between plutocracy and the people the strain upon the old parties is terrible. They are losing all former elements of cohesion. This contest on free silver has torn holes through their old hulks that cannot be patched or mended. The democratic party, as was easy to forecast, is wholly unequal to the stress of the weather, but the people who as an expedient sent to congress this overwhelming majority are still on hand. They are casting aside all prejudices. They know what they want, and they will have it. When plutocracy can be sectionalized in the east, it must perish. Lay on now. Defeat the will of the people and take what follows.—Nonconformist.

The Silver Bill.

Bland's silver bill was discussed and voted on in the house of representatives last week. Wall street developed a strength that greatly surprised the friends of free silver. On several test votes it was a tie, and finally the bill was placed on the calendar. The scenes of turbulence and of bad temper and of ugly behavior showed the Wall street is determined to bulldoze the whole country and keep its iron clutch on the industries of the nation. Again we ask how long will the people of the great agricultural states continue to cling to the coat tail of Wall street? How long will southern and western democrats and republicans submit to the arrogant domination of the money power of the New England states? The democratic party in its national platforms, in its speeches, in its organs, for years has boldly advocated this old Jeffersonian doctrine. If that party has any manhood, and virtue and honor left, it will not longer submit to this dictation. Nothing can be hoped for from the republican party, since it has been the open friend of plutocracy for a quarter of a century. There is but one thing for the people of the west, the south and the northwest to do, and that is to join together and restore this government to the principles on which it was founded. Will they do it, or will they still consent to lick the hand that smites them?—Raleigh (N. C.) Progressive Farmer.

—The democrats of the Missouri house endorsed Cleveland for president, thereby declaring in effect that if they can help it no increase shall be made in the money volume, not even by free coinage of silver. Get together, you who favor an increase in the money volume; get with the new party in a hurry.—Missouri World.

The Campaign of Education.

"HE RULES WHO READS."

CESAR'S COLUMN. A Story of the

Twentieth Century. By Edmund Doolittle (Don. Ignatius Donnelly). "The most remarkable and thought-provoking novel that the disturbed industrial and social conditions of the present have produced."—Arena. Cloth, \$1.50. Paper, 90c.

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the author of "Cesar's Column." A wonderful fully fascinating story, based on the most startling and original conception in literature. Cloth, \$1.50. Paper, 90c.

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Robert H. Cowdrey. "Thrilling and fascinating. No one who reads it can restrain admiration for the man who can write a story that contains in its warp and woof so much that is helpful and bettering to humanity."—Arkansas Traveler. Cloth, \$1.50. Paper, 90c.

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It is an exceedingly able and valuable book, and should be in the hand of every voter in the United States. It preaches a mighty sermon.—Ignatius Donnelly.

The Rice Mills

Of Port Mystery. By B. F. HUBBARD.